

S/N: 10/626.496

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 17, 2009. Claim 1 is currently amended, but the applicants reserve the right to prosecute the original scope of claim 1 in a continuation application. Claim 6 is currently cancelled without prejudice, and claim 7 was previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-5 are currently pending.

In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Claim Objection

Claim 1 was objected to because the acronym "I.D." was not spelled at its first occurrence. The applicants have amended claim 1 to spell "I.D." at its first occurrence. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims in any way.

The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection in light of this amendment.

Specification Objections

The specification was objected to because the first occurrence of the acronyms "PLC" and "I.D." were not spelled at their first occurrence. The abstract was also objected to because the first occurrence of "I.D." was not spelled at its first occurrence. The applicants have amended the specification and abstract to spell these acronyms at their first occurrence. These amendments do not add new matter.

The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending objections in light of these amendments.

S/N: 10/626,496

Allowable Subject Matter

Page 3 of the Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claim 6 is not obvious over the prior art of record and is thus allowable. The applicants thank the examiner for this finding and have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 6. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims, claims 2-5.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 stand rejected over various combinations of Ouellette, Elliott, Ardalan, Fischer, and Sipola. The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and do not concede any characterizations of the cited references or pending application set forth in the Office Action.

The applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6 as noted above. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1-5.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all the pending rejections and allowance of the pending claims. Applicants note that there may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct and reserve the right to raise any such reasons in the future. Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions or if a telephone interview can otherwise advance prosecution of this application.

S/N: 10/626,496

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

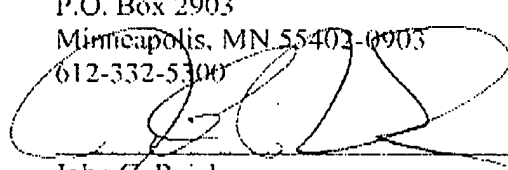
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, MN 55403-0903

612-332-5300

Date: October 19, 2009



John C. Reich

Reg. No. 37,703

JCReich/jle